

Ucoidiomas Language & Culture Housing contract

By enrolling in the University of Córdoba / Ucoidiomas Language & Culture program, students understand and accept that living with a host family is an integral—and very important—part of the program. They also understand and accept that other housing arrangements (such as college dorms, fraternities, or apartment rental) are not available to them. Respect, consideration, and a positive attitude toward host families are required of all program participants, along with the willingness to adjust to the customs and mores of both their host families and Spain.

1. Student misbehavior related to alcohol or drug abuse will not be tolerated, and may result in dismissal from the program.

2. It is very important that you read the housing norms carefully and thoroughly. Your host and family are familiar with them. The housing norms explain what you can expect of your host family and what obligations you have to your host family to live harmoniously in their home. If there is something that appears in the following pages that you do not understand or that does not correspond to your actual living situation in your home in Córdoba, please inform the University staff, the Córdoba Program Coordinator, and we will try to resolve the situation.

3. Full room and board arranged by Ucoidiomas provides for only the usual accommodations of a Spanish home, which includes three meals a day (breakfast, lunch and dinner). Students should expect only what is customary in Spanish homes. This means a light breakfast (*el desayuno*), lunch (*la comida*) at 2:00 p.m. or 3:00 p.m., and dinner (*la cena*) usually around 9 or 10 pm. Meals are served in accordance with the Spanish family schedule, although occasionally breakfast may be served a little earlier for those students who have classes first thing in the morning. Students should always let their family know if they are going to be late for a meal, if they are going to miss a meal, if they are going to spend the evening out or the weekend away.

4. Menus will be prepared according to the criteria of each host. It is in the student's best interest that he/she becomes familiar with Spanish food and customs. Typical traditional Spanish dishes will be introduced frequently to the student. Our experience tells us that one of the most frequent problems that students have is adjusting to the Spanish food. We have asked your host to be a little flexible in accommodating their food preparation plates to the tastes of the American student, and they are aware that there may be initial difficulties in adapting to the Spanish diet. In the event that a student, for whatever reason, follows a special diet (vegetarianism, religious practice or a medical condition, i.e., diabetes etc.), the family should prepare dishes that conform to those dietary requirements.

5. Please advise your host if you will not be eating with your family.
6. Students have the right to one daily hot shower of a prudent length. The host is to provide towels. Students should use their own toiletries (soap, deodorant, shampoo, etc.), and are not allowed to use those of the host family.
7. Students are responsible for replacing any items they may accidentally ruin, damage, break or destroy (i.e., sheets, towels, small electric appliances, etc.). Replaced items should be of the same quality as the original item. Students must replace the item or pay the host family the entire cost of the item within 15 days.
8. Students have the right to have their clothes washed once a week. Students are permitted one load of whites and one load of dark clothes each week. Do not expect large amounts of clothes to be washed. The host is under no obligation to iron clothes or to drop off or pick up items at dry cleaners. The things that must be sent to the dry cleaner (*tintorería*) are at the expense of the student. Any extra services will have to be arranged by the student with the host. Sheets are arranged every seven to ten days. Bathrooms and bedrooms are cleaned on a regular basis.
9. Each student is to keep his/her room picked up and tidy so as to allow for the room to be cleaned. The student is to make up his/her bed each day. Students are not permitted to hang, tape, glue, nail photos, posters or any other item on the walls or doors without the permission of the host family. If any student breaks this norm, he/she will pay the ensuing costs.
10. Given the cost of energy, students should be prudent when using electricity. Students should remember to turn off the lights when not in a room, and not overuse electrical appliances. You are advised not to be connected to the internet after 1:00 am.
11. Students are not allowed to place phone calls from the host family's home unless permitted by the host. Please be prudent and do not tie up the line. Both incoming and outgoing telephone conversations should be kept to a reasonable length. Calls should be made/received while the family is awake--not during early morning hours. Phone calls should not be received after 12 AM and not before 8 AM. Students are encouraged to purchase phone cards and to use them.
12. Each student is provided with a set of keys to the front door as well as to the apartment. If the keys to the house are lost or stolen, the student is required to pay for the replacement of those keys. In the event that the locks need to be replaced, the student is required to pay for the replacement of the locks as well as for all sets of replacement keys. Students must replace the item or pay the host family the entire cost of the item within 15 days.
13. The host family places a curfew on students. Since you are living in a family environment, however, you should adhere to the customs established in the house for all members of the household: Be considerate as to your arrival times at night and in the early morning hours! Do not wake up either the entire building or the individual family unit with phone calls or noisy or rowdy behavior!

14. Please tell your host if you will be gone for the weekend. If your travel plans change once you are away, it is important that you let your host family (and program staff) know too. For this reason, you should always have their phone number at hand.

15. Students are not allowed to receive personal visitors in the house unless the host family permits it.

16. Students have the right to have free access to the common areas of the home. Students should always respect the family schedule, including customs such as television hours in the living room.

17. Any problem or misunderstanding which may arise between the student and the host family must be communicated immediately to the Program Coordinator.

You must state that you agree to these requirements by completing the Housing Questionnaire Form by the stated deadline.